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TODAY ABROAD

by Joseph Clark

How They Lied About What Tito Told Dulles

CONCERNING his visit to Yugoslavia we can almost hear John Foster Dulles saying to himself: "Now was that trip necessary?"

We have in mind the sharp denunciation by Yugoslavia of the "false and distorted" reports that appeared in American newspapers about the Tito-Dulles conversations.

The whole concept of these side-trips by Dulles during the recesses of the foreign ministers conference was a lulu. The socialist government of Yugoslavia had long indicated its desire for a visit by U.S. government leaders. Yugoslavia wanted to make it clear that its reconciliation with the Soviet Union did not in any way mean it did not want to be friends with the United States.

As a matter of fact the Soviet Union supported Yugoslavia in this effort. It was the view both of the Soviet and Yugoslav leaders that friendship between the two countries should in no way interfere with relations with other countries, especially capitalist nations.

AFTER A LONG delay Dulles agreed to visit Tito at his summer resort Brioni in Yugoslavia. But Dulles was so worried about possible protests from the Neanderthals in his Party that he decided to "balance" his visit to Tito with a visit to Franco. That was "diplomacy" with a vengeance. Tito, of course, recognized what a slap that was, but he showed that he was a far more astute diplomat than the Secretary of State.

So the meeting in Brioni went off in friendly spirit. Which is all to the good. Contrary to how Washington feels about reconciliation between Yugoslavia and the USSR, the socialist countries think that friendly relations with capitalist countries are a good thing—providing none is asked to give up its sovereign rights.

But the western correspondents in Yugoslavia behaved there just as they had been behaving in Geneva. That is, they weren't really correspondents, just clowns in the service of the cold war. But their clowning in Geneva and their clowning in Brioni had its origin in the "highest" official source—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

AT BRIONI Dulles declared, with Tito nodding his assent:

"We arrived at the joint accord that it is necessary to recognize the importance of the independence of those Eastern European countries, non-interference from abroad in their internal problems, and the right for them to choose according to their free will their economic and social order."

But the headlines in the American big business papers next day screamed: "Free Satellites Dulles, Tito Ask," to cite a typical one in the N.Y. Daily News (Nov. 7).

I remember how shocked we were in Geneva at the N.Y. Herald Tribune story. We asked the Tribune man how they had the temerity to say that Tito and Dulles agreed "on the need for the states of eastern Europe" to

regain their independence."

This was a deliberate concoction we pointed out. It was the kind of lying that was being done very day from Geneva.

WE SUGGESTED to the N.Y. Herald Tribune correspondent in Geneva that his paper was misrepresenting what Tito had actually agreed to. The reply from the Trib man was a loud snort, which was supposed to mean that we were all wet about Tito and they were really telling the truth.

Well, the Yugoslav government told them off quite properly. The Belgrade Radio said Yugoslavia consistently adhered to "the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs." And it explained that Dulles was merely accepting this point of view in his statement. Furthermore, the formulation to which Tito agreed in his talks with Dulles was almost exactly what the Soviet Yugoslav declaration had said.

And the irony about this is that Tito knows, just as all the peoples democracies of eastern Europe know, who is not respecting the independence of those nations and who actually is interfering in the internal affairs of the eastern European countries.

Yugoslavia, along with the other socialist governments of eastern Europe, has been the target of sabotage, and counter-revolutionary plots, by refugees who adhere to the old fascist regimes of those lands. These fascist remnants have gotten the direct backing of John Foster Dulles' brother Allen Dulles, head of CIA (Central Intelligence Agency).

So, was that trip really necessary, Mr. Dulles (John Foster)?